

Islamic Books

A Research Blog about Manuscripts, Printed Books, and Ephemera in Arabic Script

Islam in the Columbia Curriculum, 1886-2012: From Oriental Languages to Area Studies and Religious Studies

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1886-2012: From Oriental Languages to Area Studies and Religious Studies



9:00 a.m. Opening remarks

9:30 a.m. Oriental Studies and Islamwissenschaft, 1886-1969

1:30 p.m. Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies since 1945

4:00 p.m. Islamic and Global Studies in the Twenty-First Century:
A Roundtable

Sponsored by the Columbia University Seminar on Religion and Writing, the American Institute of Iranian Studies, and the Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Columbia University.

Image information: Religious Ceremonies and Customs, ed. C. A. Goodrich, Harford, CT, 1836. Courtesy of Burke Library, Columbia University.

Website: <https://researchblogs.cul.columbia.edu/islamicbooks/religionwriting/conference/>

The one-day conference was held on Thursday, 31 January 2013, in the [Faculty House](#) of Columbia University, 400 West 117th Street, New York, N. Y. 10027. It explored the history of Islamic Studies in North America in general, and at Columbia University in particular. Its starting point was the observation that Islamic Studies slipped into the Columbia curriculum when in the late 1880s Oriental languages were first added to the fledgling University's course offerings.

Program:

9:00 am – *Opening Remarks*

Robert E. Pollack (Columbia University): *Welcome*

Dagmar A. Riedel (Columbia University): *Introduction*

Lila Abu-Lughod (Columbia University): *Emergent Thinking about Islamic Studies at Columbia*

9.30 am – *Oriental Studies and Islamwissenschaft, 1886-1969*

Chair: Robert A. McCaughey (Barnard College)

Trudy S. Kawami (Arthur M. Sackler Foundation): *In Its Own World: Ancient Near Eastern Art and Archeology at Columbia*

Dagmar A. Riedel (Columbia University): *Oriental Languages in America of the Gilded Age: Richard Gottheil and A. V. Williams Jackson*

Patrick J. Ryan, SJ (Fordham University): *Arthur Jeffery and Missionary Islamic Studies*

David S. Powers (Cornell University): *Joseph Schacht and the Study of Hadith*

noon – Lunch

1.30 pm – *Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies since 1945*

Chair: Timothy P. Mitchell (Columbia University)

Richard W. Bulliet (Columbia University): *Islam and Area Studies*

Edward E. Curtis IV (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis): *The Study/Ghettoization of African-American Islam*

Carl W. Ernst (The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): *Persianate Islamic Studies in the U.S.*

David M. Freidenreich (Colby College): *Islamic Studies and Jewish Studies: Differences in Context*

3.30 pm – Coffee

4.00 pm – *Islamic and Global Studies in the Twenty-First Century: A Roundtable*

Chair: David Johnston (Columbia University)

Amir Hussain (Loyola Marymount University)

Jerusha T. Lamphey (Union Theological Seminary)

Elias D. Mallon (Catholic Near East Welfare Association)

Burton L. Visotzky (Jewish Theological Seminary)

6.15 pm – Reception

Hosted by the Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Columbia University, [Butler Library](#), 6th Floor East, 535 West 114th Street, New York, N. Y. 10027.

The conference was sponsored by

the [Columbia University Seminar on Religion and Writing](#),

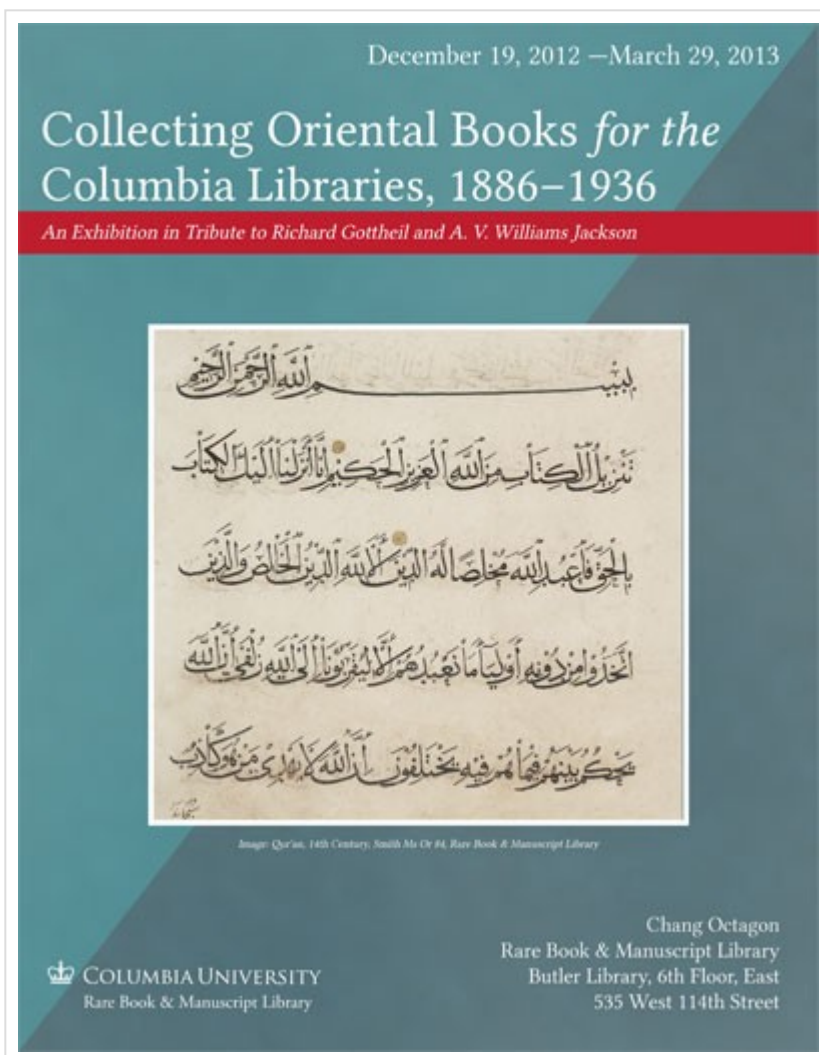
the [American Institute of Iranian Studies](#), and

the Friends of the Columbia Libraries.

The conference was open to the public, but we requested registration, as seating was limited, with a RSVP to: icc1886@gmail.com.

(NB – The email address was disabled on 4 February 2013.)

The conference accompanied an exhibition in honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Richard Gottheil (1862-1936) and A. V. Williams Jackson (1862-1937). The exhibition showcased books and ephemera in Arabic, Armenian, Avestan, Persian, Sanskrit, Sumerian, and Turkish, exploring the interdependence between the development of library resources and the establishment of Columbia's first Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies programs.



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